

## **Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector Stanford Health Care Commitment Statement**

*This commitment statement is in support of the National Academy of Medicine's national movement to decarbonize the health sector.*

Stanford Health Care aims to provide patients with the very best in diagnosis and treatment, with outstanding quality, compassion, and coordination. We are creating new delivery models; pioneering leading edge therapies; and advancing scientific discovery, technological innovation, and translational medicine through relationships with luminary Silicon Valley companies and a spirit of discovery.

Given the scale of the climate crisis and its impact on the health and wellbeing of our patients, Stanford Health Care believes it is crucial to address our own greenhouse gas emissions and the emissions of our sector.

At Stanford Health Care, we are improving our infrastructure and supply purchases. In 2019, Stanford Health Care opened a new hospital, constructed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED silver standards. The new hospital employs innovative design features, current technologies, and automation to minimize energy and water use while still providing the redundancy and resilience necessary to ensure safety. In Northern California, water is a very precious commodity especially in a changing climate. A case study of water conservation efforts in our Central Sterile Department is available to Practice Greenhealth members. The building's rooftop gardens, which are accessible to patients, are watered by condensate from HVAC units in the building.

Stanford Health Care has been a member of Practice Greenhealth since 2010, receiving their Partner for Change Award and the Environmental Excellence Award for our work in decarbonizing healthcare delivery. In 2019, we removed the anesthetic gas desflurane, a potent greenhouse gas, from our formulary. Starting in 2020, we began a "Greening the Clinics" pilot project initiative where the resident safety council conducted projects to increase environmental impact awareness and decrease waste in our Physical Medicine and Rehab Clinic and our Orthopedic Clinic.

As we continue our sustainability journey, we are working to de-silo the sustainability efforts across Stanford Health Care. Last year, we created five working groups for Transportation, Energy & Water, Zero Waste & Emissions, Sustainable Procurement, and Design & Construction, with members from different departments across the hospital. We are working to achieve multi-year targets designed to ultimately achieve carbon neutrality.

Climate education and advocacy are also crucial to our mission. In the Stanford School of Medicine, we have identified opportunities to integrate climate & health topics into first-year courses and have begun to teach these topics in the Practice of Medicine cardiology and pulmonology blocks. Beginning in 2020, we jointly planned and hosted the first annual NorCal Symposium for Climate, Health, and Equity with UCSF, which created a broader learning community to address climate and health impacts. Stanford Health Care's Community Advocacy Group has been working with Catholic Charities of Stockton, Little Manila Rising, and academic partners to convey the disproportionate impacts of air pollution and climate to the Stockton Housing Justice Coalition and Stockton residents. In addition, Stanford Health Care has lobbied CA Senator Jerry Hill's office for sustainable healthcare legislation, and we have shifted attention to reusable PPE policy, both internally and externally. Patient safety, cost-savings, and sustainability are our main priorities.